

SIG Youth Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2005

Attending: Eve Bleyhl, Leslie Byers, Roxie Cillessen, David Cygan, Michelle Marsh (guest speaker), Jonah Deppe, Alice Drake, Ruth Henrichs, Harriet Lambrecht, Katie Mcleese-Stephenson, Reece Peterson, Jill Schubauer, Kate Speck, Mark DeKraai, Judith Vohland, Elizabeth Jackson

By Phone: Jerry Easterday

The meeting was convened at 1:00 PM at the Lancaster County Extension Office, Room C, 444 Cherry Creek Road.

Facilitator Kate Speck introduced Roxie Cillessen and Michelle Marsh. They commented on the need for outpatient treatment for children who don't need to become state wards and the need to find a way to treat within the community. They began looking at a proposal from the Journeys program in Omaha about a year ago. (Although there is a Journeys program in existence already it is a Substance Abuse/Mental Health treatment program located in St. Joe's Center for Mental Health.) The project would include collaboration between Omaha Home for Boys, Child Saving, Catholic Charities and initial start up costs would be grant funded. The main objectives would be that youth leave RTC's and go back into the community after no more than 30 days and family is involved up front. This is considered a pilot, and many services would need to be developed. However, if it's effective there may be more across state. Michelle Marsh added that Journeys would also offer at least some intervention for kids coming back out of the RTC.

Jill Schubauer discussed EICC and the differences between that program and the Journeys pilot program. EICC is community based and there's no "place" the kids go to. They don't see kids coming out of psych hospitals and are in a sense one step ahead of the process. They also have more experience with professional partner program.

There was also a discussion of the funding sources and whether or not these programs would serve the non Medicaid population. It was determined that services and funding sources would need to be identified.

Kate Speck introduced a handout from Institutes of Medicine which discussed improving the quality of mental health care. (Although this is an adult model it could still be useful for the committee)

The committee began work on a series of recommendations they are to make to the Steering Committee regarding strategies to decrease the number of state wards as well as strategies to integrate family centered practice into systems of care.

Recommendation 1. Need to develop and further refine the implementation of family centered care for Nebraska families. (Medicaid and non Medicaid eligible)

Recommendation 2. Implement policies to access Medicaid waivers and blended/flexible funding sources.

Recommendation 3. Bring in Center for Medicaid and Medicare Strategies representative and/or other experts to discuss implementations of creative financial strategies for the system of care.

Recommendation 4a. Develop collaboration and partnerships between families, schools, substance abuse and mental health providers, law enforcement, family support networks, family mentoring organizations/advocates, child welfare system, juvenile justice and non traditional entities that honor cultural beliefs and needs of children with mental illness.

Recommendation 4b. Development of policies that support collaboration at all levels of agreement that creates accountability and fosters development of family centered practices.

Recommendation 6: Ensure standards, outcomes and accountability in the system of care by implementing checks and balances that encourage funding competition promoting highest standards of care

Mark DeKraai mentioned that the Steering Committee recently looked at states that have been at the forefront of children's mental health services. Missouri implemented a study to determine the number of state wards and then developed a protocol to move kids away from state ward status while still receiving services. A summary newsletter can be sent out to committee members. David Cygan noted that some other states have expanded programs beyond traditional services without expanding state funds to include those who are not eligible for Medicaid.

The next Youth Committee meeting will take place Thursday Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 1-4. The committee would like to work off of overheads or FLIP CHARTS in order to refine the recommendations.

Kate will ask Lesley to accompany her to the Steering meeting to articulate the recommendations.

Minutes prepared by University of Nebraska Public Policy Center staff. The minutes are intended to summarize the meeting, but a transcript of the meeting is available.